

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
Office of the Governor

Marilyn Tavenner
Secretary of Health and Human Resources
Aneesh Chopra
Secretary of Technology

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**SECRETARIES OF HEALTH AND TECHNOLOGY
ANNOUNCE HEALTH IT “REQUEST FOR
INFORMATION”**

~Nationally recognized expert on Health IT to lead effort~

RICHMOND — Secretary of Health and Human Resources, Marilyn Tavenner and Secretary of Technology, Aneesh Chopra today announced the release of a Request for Information (“RFI”) calling for technology firms, healthcare providers, local governments and other community groups to bid on \$1.5 million appropriated for the adoption of health IT across the Commonwealth. Governor Kaine announced the grant opportunity in his Executive Order forming the Health IT Council on August 3rd.

“We hope to leverage Virginia’s leadership role in public-private partnerships to surface innovative projects worthy of implementation,” explained Secretary Chopra. “Virginia will demonstrate the cost and quality benefits of Health IT investment as our nation works towards President Bush’s goal of electronic medical records for all by 2014.”

For information on Virginia’s requirements, please review the RFI online at www.ehealth.vi.virginia.gov. Interested parties are required to submit brief responses by September 15th, 2006 and to visit the website regularly for updates.

To assist in evaluating grant requests, Governor Kaine has tapped Mr. Greg Walton, former CIO of Carilion Health System and CHIME/HIMSS 2005 CIO of the year to serve as Executive Advisor. Mr. Walton will work to ensure the Council recommends the most effective projects by both elevating the quality of grant requests and establishing a framework for prioritizing investments.

Secretaries Tavenner and Chopra will Co-Chair the Health IT Council and deliver a final report to Governor Kaine by December. Leaders from Virginia’s provider community, business executives, and other key health care stakeholders will comprise the Council membership with an initial meeting date in mid-September.

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